

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 L-03 SAJ-01 EB-11 COME-00 NSC-07

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1925

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0258

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINS, SOCI, GR

SUBJECT: GOG INVESTIGATING LAND FRAUD OF LOCAL JEWISH
COMMUNITY PROPERTIES

REF: THESSALONIKI 0255

1. THESSALONIKI PAPERS OF MAY 24 FRONTPAGE RELEASE
OF PREVIOUS DAY BY HQ OF 87TH THESSALONIKI MIL COM
RE CASE OF FRAUDULENT CLAIMS FOR PROPERTY OF
FORMER JEWISH RESIDENTS (REF). HEADLINES IN BOTH
MORNING PAPERS REPORT THAT CASE INVOLVES "TENS OF
MILLIONS" OF DRACHMAS. FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR POINTS
OF 87TH MIL COM RELEASE WHICH CARRIED VERBATIM
WITHOUT COMMENT:

2. DEMETRIOS AND YVONNE PANTSIOPOULOS CHARGED
WITH SEVERAL INSTANCES OF FRAUD. ACCORDING TO
INVESTIGATION, PANTSIOPOULOS INVOLVED IN "ILLEGAL
ACTIVITIES HARMFUL TO STATE AND SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS" SINCE 1966. DEFENDANT ALLEGED TO
HAVE MISREPRESENTED WIFE YVONNE, WHO OF JEWISH
ORIGIN, AS SOLE HEIR TO HOLDINGS IN THESSALONIKI,
KAVALA, AND ELSEWHERE WHICH AS "ABANDONED PROPERTY"
SHOULD REVERT TO GREEK STATE. BY EXAMINATION OF
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OLD DEEDS, PANTSIOPOULOS, ACCORDING TO RELEASE,

DETERMINED WHICH PLOTS, OF "QUESTIONABLE OWNERSHIP"
AND, WITH COLLABORATORS, PRODUCED FALSE EVIDENCE RE
DEATH OF ORIGINAL OWNERS AT SITES FOR WHICH DEATH
RECORDS KNOWN TO BE DESTROYED.

3. BY ABOVE "SATANIC" METHOD, CHARGE STATES,
PANTSIPOULOS ABLE TO ACCUMULATE SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY
SOME OF WHICH NOW SOLD. SIMILAR PETITIONS SHOWING
WIFE AS SOLE HEIR TO ADDITIONAL 20 PLOTS NOW PENDING
BEFORE THESSALONIKI AND KAVALA COURTS.

4. ALSO LISTED IN INDICTMENT AS COLLABORATORS FOR
GIVING FALSE TESTIMONY ARE: SOLOMON GERSON, ELENI
AMBELOURGOU, ATHANASIOS DADOUDIS, NICOLAOS
ANAGNOSTOPOULOS, DARIO SARFATI, ANNA SERAFIMIDOU,
ALGAVA MORDECAI, AND MOIS ESKENAZI, OF WHOM FIVE
ARE MEMBERS OF LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY. RELEASE
CONCLUDES THAT ABOVE HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.
TRIAL SET FOR MAY 27 BEFORE SPECIAL MILITARY COURT
HERE.

5. COMMENT: OWNERSHIP OF EXTENSIVE PROPERTIES
BELONGING TO JEWISH COMMUNITY MEMBERS LOST DURING
WORLD WAR II LONGTIME QUESTION IN THIS AREA.
ABOVE, HOWEVER, IS FIRST INSTANCE OF BLATANT FRAUD
INVOLVING THESE PROPERTIES OF WHICH WE AWARE IN
RECENT YEARS.
JACKSON

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